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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 SAN S 2115 192243Z 57/41
ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /007 W
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O 192143Z MAR 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2931

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 2115

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC, OGEN, AINF (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF: STATE 6519 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONOFF VISITED JUDICAL CENTER TODAY AND RESEARCHED FILES OF ALL UNIDENTIFIED CORPSES FOUND IN THE CITY OF SAN SALVADOR BETWEEN DECEMBER 28 AND JANUARY 6TH. JUDGE RICARDO VICENTE VIANA OF THE THIRD COURT ASSISTED IN THE SEARCH OF THE SIX CASES DISCOVERED NONE WERE BELIEVED TO BE SULLIVAN. THIS CONCLUSION WAS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:
(A) CORPSE NO 1 WAS FOUND AT 11:30 ON 1-8 8 BEFORE SULLIVAN HAD ARRIVE IN THE COUNTRY.
(B) CORPSE NO 2 WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ALCOHOLIC FREQUENTLY SEEN IN THE AREA BUT WITH NAME UNKNOWN.
(C) CORPSE NO 3 WAS FOUND AT 4:30 ON 12/28. SULLIVAN CHECKED IN SHERATON HOTEL AT 6 P.M. THAT DAY.
(D) CORPSE NO 4 WAS DESCRIBED AS 1 METER 65" WITH 2 GOLD CAPPED TEETH. HE WAS SHOT DURING AN ASSAULT ON A CLOTHING STORE ON 12/29 AT 5:15 P.M. HE WAS DRESSED IN BLUE CORDOROY JEANS (PRINCE BRAND MADE RN CENTRAL AMERICA) WITH A RED SHIRT MADE OF TOWEL MATERIAL. HIS HAD ON BLUE SOCKS AND BLACK BOOTS. HAIR WAS BLACK AND COMPLEXION DARK.
(E) CORPSE NO 5 WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ALCOHOLIC ABOUT 60 YEARS OLD. BODY DISCOVERED ON DECEMBER 31 AT 4:30 P.M.
(F) CORPSE NO 6 WAS ALSO DESCRIBED AS AN ALCOHOLIC. HIS AGE WAS JUDGED TO BE BETWEEN 40-45 YEARS. BODY WAS FOUND ON JANUARY 3 AT 8 P.M.

2. POST WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT ALL RECORDS ARE WRITTEN IN LONG HAND. THEY VARY AS TO STYLE AND KIND OF INFORMATION GIVEN. RECORDS ARE KEPT IN LARGE BOOKS WHICH CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM THE JUDICIAL CENTER. THERE ARE NO PHOTOCOPY FACILITIES AVAILABLE. BECAUSE OF THIS, CONOFF COULD NOT OBTAIN EXACT COPIES. EXAMINATION OF ALL RECORDS BETWEEN DECEMBER 28 AND JANUARY 5TH REQUIRED OVER THREE HOURS OF PAGE BY PAGE RESEARCH. VICTIMS REGISTERED DURING THIS TIME FRAME DECEMBER 28 TO JANUARY 6TH WERE ALL IDENTIFIED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

3. JUDGE RICARDO VIANA COMMENTED TO CONOFF THAT CASES OF DISAPPEARANCE LIKE THAT OF SULLIVANS OCCUR DAILY. HE CITED EXAMPLES OF MOTHERS WHO HAVE PLEADED WITH HIM TO REVIEW THE BOOKS ONE MORE TIME TO SEE IF SOME TRACE OF THEIR SONS COULD BE UNCOVERED. FYI, THE GENERAL PUBLIC DOES NOT USUALLY HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THESE RECORDS. AN EXCEPTION WAS MADE FOR CONOFF. VIANA STATED THAT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THE BODY IS NEVER FOUND IN CASES INVOLVING POLITICAL KIDNAP.

4. POST IS FORWARDING ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFTEL VIA AIR POUCH.
CHAPIN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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